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Drive, Plano, TX 75025 (US). SIDERS, Craig, W. [US/US]; 1556 South Lyons Court, Oviedo, FL 32765 (US). MIELKE, Michael [US/US]; 2821 Delcrest Drive, Orlando, FL 32817 (US).

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(74) Agents: CHALKER, Daniel et al.; Chalker Flores, LLP, 12700 Park Central Drive, Suite 455, Dallas, TX 75251 (US).

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(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): RAY-DIANCIE, INC. [US/US]; 12565 Research Parkway, Suite 300, Orlando, FL 32826 (US). THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA RESEARCH FOUNDATION [US/US]; 12443 Research Parkway, Suite 302, Orlando, FL 32826 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BULLINGTON, Jeff [US/US]; 348 Grey Owl Run, Chuluota, FL 32766 (US). STOLTZ, Richard [US/US]; 3321 Swanson (US).

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: HIGH-POWER-OPTICAL-AMPLIFIER USING A NUMBER OF SPACED, THIN SLABS

(57) Abstract: The high-power-optical-amplifier of the present invention uses a number of spaced, thin slabs (e.g., disc-shaped doped-slabs that are stacked, with a space between discs), aligned to give an amplifier both with a high active cross-section and a very high surface area to volume ratio. More specifically, the present invention provides several methods that include the steps of aligning at least two or four slabs having a thickness dimension of less than one centimeter, substantially parallel to, and spaced from adjacent slabs, wherein the slab surfaces are rendered essentially non-reflective, optically pumping the slabs and passing an input beam through the surfaces wherein the beam is optically amplified in the slabs, and wherein the input beam is of an eye-safe wavelength.

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